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ANNUAL WILDLIFE REPORT

1978

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

R-4

REPLY TO: 2660 Administration

JAN 29 1979

SUBJECT: Annual Wildlife Report

TO: Forest Supervisors

Enclosed for your information are copies of the Annual Wildlife Report for the Region. Please route these to each Ranger District for their information.

"Wildlife Action" provided us with an aggressive program and set an ambitious schedule for a total Wildlife Management Program.

We are pleased with the significant increases in the wildlife habitat improvement projects accomplished this year. The combined benefits from the manpower programs, cooperative projects, and improved finances have enabled us to move the overall wildlife program ahead at a rapid rate.

While much of the credit for the good work is due to a management-by-objective process, improved finances, and increased awareness of the jobs to be done, the real credit is due to you and your personnel. Please convey my appreciation for the fine job they have done this past year. With efforts such as this, the total Wildlife Program will continue to improve.

for VERN HAMRE
Regional Forester

Enclosures

cc:
DRF-R
DRF-A
DRF-S&PF
Directors
W.O. (WL)

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INTERMOUNTAIN REGION, USDA, R-4

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

R-4

REPLY TO: 2660 Administration

January 22, 1979

SUBJECT: Annual Wildlife Report - Narrative Section - F.Y. 1978

TO: Chief

Enclosed is the narrative for the F.Y. 1978 Annual Wildlife Report for the Intermountain Region.

John W. Mumma

JOHN W. MUMMA
Director
Wildlife Management

Enclosure

cc:
Regions 1,2,3, ,5,6,8,9, and 10 - w/enc.

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Annual Wildlife Report

F.Y. 1978

Narrative Section

GENERAL

Region 4 made substantial strides forward with their fish and wildlife management program in F.Y. 1978. "Wildlife Action" which contains Regional policy, goals, objectives, and program action was completed. A copy of "Wildlife Action" is enclosed for your reference. Completion of the Plan was timely. It provided direction to the Region which resulted in better utilization of the increased funding received in F.Y. 1978. As a result, 105,975-acre equivalents of wildlife habitat and 2,145-acre equivalents of fish habitat improvement was accomplished. Accomplishment exceeded the Region's targets by 268 percent and 430 percent respectively. The action plan is also serving as the base document in developing the fish and wildlife (1980) RPA program update and for land management planning efforts.

The Region received considerably more moisture than during the previous year. It was somewhat spotty, but, generally, overall conditions were greatly improved. We were fortunate that a drying trend occurred in September which resulted in 1 to 3-weeks perfect prescribed burning conditions on most Forests. Accomplishment in terrestrial habitat improvement would have been greatly reduced if this had not occurred.

A major emphasis was placed on the anadromous fish habitat improvement program. The Region allocated $213,000 supplemental funds for constructing screens to keep fish from entering irrigation diversions on the Sawtooth National Forest. A special funding initiative was also developed to accelerate the anadromous fish habitat improvement program in Idaho and should become effective in F.Y. 1981. Regions 1 and 4 have joined in this effort and plan to fill a position to lead the project in F.Y. 1979.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

The Region continued to move ahead in developing programs for both the endangered and threatened animals and plants. A botanist was hired to work in a zone position headquartered on the Uinta National Forest. This position has added greatly to the endangered and threatened plant program for the Region. The work was coordinated and guided by Win Green and Dr. Ed Schlatterer. Win Green transferred to Region 5 and was replaced by Phill Janik in December of 1978. Win Green functioned as the Regional biologist working on the endangered and threatened animal program. Dr. Schlatterer is with the Range Mangement Staff and provided Regional guidance on endangered plants.

The grizzly bear program again took a large amount of time this past year. Biologists on the Bridger-Teton and Targhee National Forests continue to assist in the monitoring of tagged bears, preparation of maps of bear sitings, and in coordinating Forest activities with bear habitat needs. The Targhee National Forest has been in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning timber management activities as they may affect grizzly bear or their habitat.

The Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests have developed a cooperative stream habitat evaluation program with the Nevada Department of Fish and Game. This effort will result in the determination and definition of endangered and threatened fish species and their habitat needs on National Forests in Nevada.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

The Region is continuing to place emphasis on terresterial habitat typing - wildlife relationships and the General Aquatic Wildlife System (GAWS) programs. Additional efforts have been placed on accomplishing items listed in "Wildlife Action." Major efforts have been directed at developing a fish and wildlife trainee program, completion of a Regional snag management policy, updating and revising of state Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Plans, cooperative relations with state Fish and Game Departments, 1980 RPA program development and Regional planning. A Comprehensive Plan was completed for Idaho in a joint effort with Region 1. Plans for Utah and Nevada are in final draft and should be printed in early F.Y. 1979. The Plan for Wyoming is being jointly developed with Region 2 and should be published in F.Y. 1979.

ANIMAL DAMAGE

Livestock losses to predators continues to be reported. Control procedures including verification of livestock loss appear to be working reasonably well. The Fish and Wildlife Service animal control personnel have, in many instances, been given advanced authority to use approved control measures when problems occur in areas with historic predation problems.

STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS

A wide range of studies, special management programs, and publications were underway in F.Y. 1978:

- Wildlife Action - published
- Economic Value of Fish and Wildlife Species - published
- Idaho Comprehensive Plan - published
- Anadromous Fisheries Resource in the Upper Snake River - published
- National Aquatic Habitat Management Workshop - held July 11-13, 1978

- Grizzly Brochure and Trailhead Poster - published
- Snag Brochure - published
- Elk-Roads-Logging Relationships - A Resume' of Findings - published
- R-4 Supplement on Endangered and Threatened Species - draft
- Sawtooth NRA Aquatic Habitat Action Plan, 1978-1981 - published
- Aquatic Ecosystem Analysis, Phase I - published
- Effects of Various Cutting Practices on Small Mammals and Birds on Silver Creek - ongoing
- Elk Timber Management Study - ongoing
- Livestock and Riparian Zone Study - ongoing
- Vexar Gopher Control Study - ongoing
- Bagged Bait - Gopher Damage Study - ongoing
- Elk Logging Study - ongoing
- Study to Investigate the Status, Distribution, and Numbers of Grizzly - ongoing
- Bears in the Teton Division of Bridger-Teton National Forest - completed
- Effects of Phosphate Mining on Wildlife - ongoing
- Study of Blue and Ruffed Grouse on Montpelier Ranger District - ongoing
- Sharptailed Grouse Study on the Curlew National Grassland - ongoing
- Response of Deer and Elk to Rest-Rotation grazing - ongoing

WILDLIFE PERSONNEL

Six aquatic habitat and eight terrestrial habitat wildlife trainee positions were filled in F.Y. 1978. These positions were staffed with individuals qualified for the biologist position series GS-482 and 486. A total of 53 wildlife personnel, including trainees and zone botanist position, are located throughout the Region.

SUMMARY OF WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS ON
NATIONAL FOREST LANDS IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION DURING F. Y. 1978

	UTAH	IDAHO	NEVADA	CALIFORNIA	WYOMING	TOTAL
1. Wildlife habitat improvement through pothole development, marsh improvement, seeding, planting, prescribed burning, brush piling, herbicide treatments, pruning, openings, and pinyon-juniper control.	10,913 acres	3,190 acres	1,815 acres	50 acres	2,082 acres	17,996 acres
2. Wildlife habitat improvement through water developments, nest boxes, and road closures.	43 structures	153 structures	19 structures			215 structures
3. Fish habitat improvement through stream structure screens and dam construction.	28 structures	146 structures (includes 802 acres anadromous fish)	10 structures			184 structures (includes 802 acres anadromous fish)
4. Fish habitat improvement through bank stablization, meadow protection, and barrier removal.	9.1 miles + 133 acres	1 mile + 252 acres	20 structures	2 structures		10.1 miles + 22 structures + 385 acres
5. Maintenance of structural improvements.	7 structures	15 structures	52 structures	20 acres	3 structures	77 structures + 20 acres
6. Fish and wildlife habitat maintenance and/or improvement through coordination with other resources.	290,993 acres	685,425 acres	4,968 acres		183,180 acres	1,164,566 acres
7. Wildlife and fish habitat surveys, studies, and plans.	42 surveys 1 study 35 plans	28 surveys 10 studies 1 plan	9 surveys 23 plans	 1 plan	4 surveys 2 studies 4 plans	83 survey s 13 studies 64 plans

SUMMARY OF WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS BY FOREST IN THE STATE OF IDAHO DURING F. Y. 1978

BOISE	Units
1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement	
Osprey nest platforms.	3 structures
Seeding and planting big game range on South Fork Payette and South Fork Boise River.	375 acres
Water developments and protective fencing of water sources.	43 structures
Road closures.	15 roads
Stream habitat improvements on Johnson, Rattlesnake, Cottonwood, Squaw, and Clear Creeks.	44 structures
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with timber sale management activities.	59,360 acres
2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans	
Trinity Lakes, Middle Fork Payette, South Fork Salmon River, raptor nesting and South Fork Payette winter range surveys.	5 surveys

CARIBOU	
1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement	
Prescribed burning, seeding, browse, pruning and planting; creating openings in aspen stands and windbreak plantings on Dry Valley, Red Mountain, Sulphur Canyon, Fish Haven, Pebble Hills, and Curlew.	1,244 acres
Water and pothole developments.	15 structures
Protective fencing.	1 mile
Bluebird nest structures.	50 nests
Stream structures.	27 structures

Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Timber, phosphate leasing, Range, oil exploration, and development and road closure management activities.	24,335 acres

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Phosphate area rehabilitation, sharp-tailed grouse, forest grouse, nongame bird nesting, and sage grouse habitat studies.	5 studies
Habitat typing.	1 survey
D-2 wildlife and geothermal plans.	1 plans

CHALLIS

1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement

Planting, seeding, and mahogany rejuvenation.	225 acres
Protection fencing around water.	4 ponds
Barrier removal and lake rehabilitation for fish.	21.5 acres
Stream improvement.	65 structures
Maintenance of structural improvements.	15 structures
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Timber and Range Managements' activities.	47,300 acres

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Peregrine falcon habitat, big game winter range; lake, stream, and spawning habitat surveys.	5 surveys
East Fork big game - cattle study.	1 study

PAYETTE

1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement

Seeding and planting.	45 acres
Water development, waterfowl and upland game nests.	23 structures

Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Timber and mining management activities.	77,318 acres
Summer chinook stocking in cooperation with State.	15,000 fish

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Split Creek and extensive stream and lake surveys.	3 surveys
Habitat type and Secesh salmon spawning gravel studies.	2 studies

SALMON

1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement

Prescribed burns, planting, and seeding.	925 acres
Channel stabilization.	100 acres
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Range and Timber Management activities.	371,412 acres

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Lake, stream, and spawning habitat surveys.	3 surveys
Aquatic-grazing and elk winter range - logging studies.	2 studies

SAWTOOTH

1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement

Barrier removal - anadromous fish.	130 acres
Fish screens - anadromous fish, in cooperation with State and National Marine Fisheries Service.	802 acres - 6 screens
Channel stabilization.	1 structure
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Range and Timber.	105,700 acres

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Raptor survey.	1 survey

TARGHEE

1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement

Prescribed burning and mahogany pruning.	376 acres
Pothole and marsh enhancement, McCoy Creek Bridge - repair outlet to Aldous Lake.	2 structures
Screen diversion - Big Burns Creek - with State.	1 structure

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Bald eagle nesting, peregrine falcon, pocket gopher damage, deer pellet analysis, snag/ cavity tree use, grizzly bear habitat, bighorn sheep, old growth stand and bear - livestock surveys.	10 surveys

SUMMARY OF WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS BY FOREST IN THE STATE OF NEVADA DURING F. Y. 1978

HUMBOLDT	Units
1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement	
Bitterbrush planting.	80 acres
Meadow and spring protection.	10 structures
Maintenance of escape ramp, study enclosures, exclosure removal.	52 structures
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Range.	11 water developments 8.5 miles pipelines 1,918 acres food and cover
2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans	
Beaver, aquatic, and big game habitat surveys.	8 surveys
Species habitat and allotment management plans.	22 plans

TOIYABE	
1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement	
Browseway openings, prescribed burns - Table Mountain and San Juan and protection fencing.	1,785 acres 1/
Fish barriers - Paiute trout and water developments.	22 structures 1/
Maintain Paiute trout habitat.	20 acres
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Timber activities.	3,050 acres
2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans	
Stream survey.	1 survey
Lahontan cutthroat plan.	2 plans

1/ includes 50 acres habitat improvement, 2 fish barriers, 20 acres fish habitat maintenance, and 1 plan that was accomplished in the State of California.

SUMMARY OF WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS BY FOREST IN THE STATE OF UTAH DURING F. Y. 1978

ASHLEY	Units
1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement	
Prescribed burning, seeding, browse planting, mechanical dozing or chemical spraying on Bear Mountain, Mustang, Flat Spring, Lake Mountain, Gorge Spring, and Bull Pasture.	400 acres
Fence modification.	6 miles
Water and guzzler development.	3 structures
Stream improvement Sheep Creek.	8 structures
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Timber on Canal, Crow Canyon, Marsh Bench, Dry Gulch Pole, Bear Wallow, Henlee Bench, Center Creek, Honslinger, Frog Pond, West Fork Farm Creek, Head of Farm Creek, Pole Mountain, Highway 44, Salt Creek and Old Mill II Sale Areas.	13,067 acres
2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans	
Raptor, big game winter range, and Sheep Creek surveys.	3 surveys
Splash Dam feasibility study.	1 study
Uinta River riparian habitat management and Bear Mountain and Anthro Fire Management Plans.	3 plans

DIXIE	
1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement	
Revegetation - Dutchman Ranch.	1,320 acres
Water and spring development.	4 structures
Stream protection fencing.	27 acres
East Fork Sevier fish habitat.	90 acres
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Range, 25 timber sales, IDT - Lowdor Creek peat bog and land exchange management activities.	32,576 acres

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Utah prairie dog, raptor habitat, nongame and game bird habitat, reptile and amphibian habitat, elk habitat, mule deer habitat, bald eagle, spotted owl, sage grouse, Birch Springs, Blowhard and Lake Hollow surveys.	24 surveys
Utah prairie dog, water distribution, endangered and threatened plants, snag management plans.	7 plans

FISHLAKE

1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement

Pinyon-juniper conversion, prescribed burning, seeding - Clay Springs, D-2, D-4, Little Valley and Birch Creek.	3,865 acres
Maintain study enclosures.	4 structures
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Range, Fire, Timber, land exchange management activities.	239,150 acres

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Utah prairie dog habitat, raptor habitat, big game habitat, and Forsyth Mountain prescribed burn surveys.	6 surveys

MANTI-LASAL

1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement

Seeding and planting, aspen regeneration, openings in pinyon-juniper, prescribed burning, construct brushpiles and fence construction.	2,812 acres
Barrier removal, channel stabilization.	16 acres
Water development, Abert squirrel nest box.	25 structures
Dam construction - cooperation with State.	1 structure
Dam maintenance.	2 structures

Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Timber Management activites.	120 acres

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Lake survey.	1 survey
Endangered and threatened, and elk habitat management plans.	2 plans

UINTA

1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement

Herbicide treatments, aspen thinning, pinyon-juniper removal and slash burning on Dry Canyon, Wasatch Front, Hogsback Ridge, Mt. Nebo, Vernon, and Sabia Mountain.	1,993 acres
Vernon Creek stream stabilization and Pass Creek, Murdock Hollow Road closures and Bryant's Fork and Mud Hollow fence removal.	2 miles
Fish habitat improvement - West Fork Duchesne, Granite Flat, North Fork American Fork Canyon.	19 structures
Water development	4 structures

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Black Hawk Campground and Central Utah project surveys.	4 surveys
Heritage Mountain, Central Utah Project mitigation, allotment management, animal damage, deer herd unit, elk herd unit, District wildlife and Forest endangered and threatened species plans.	23 plans

WASATCH

1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement

Bitterbrush seeding and planting, aspen regeneration, oak and maple type conversion and brush piling.	523 acres
Water developments.	7 structures
Streambank stabilization, meadow protection, and barrier removal.	1.1 miles

Maintenance of stream structures.	1 structure
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with Timber and Range activities.	6,080 acres

2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans

Big game habitat and winter eagle surveys.	4 surveys

SUMMARY OF WILDLIFE AND FISH HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS BY FOREST IN THE STATE OF WYOMING DURING F. Y. 1978

BRIDGER-TETON	Units
1. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Improvement	
Brush piling, creating openings, prescribed burns and browse pruning on Kemmerer, LaBarge Creek, Big Piney, Deadline Ridge, Grays River, Haystack, Breakneck, and Buffalo Fork.	2,028 acres
Teton Wilderness exclosures (maintain)	3 structures
Fish and wildlife habitat maintained and/or improved through coordination with timber sales and Range Management activities.	183,180 acres
2. Surveys, Studies, and Plans	
East Refuge and Upper Green River wildlife habitat improvement and peregrine falcon aerial surveys.	4 surveys
Cooperative elk-logging and grizzly bear habitat studies.	2 studies
Bridger Wilderness fisheries management, Kendall Warm Spring dace biological unit management and Coal Creek Dam.	4 plans